

REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF THE
TOWN OF OAKHAM,

FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR, 1864-5.

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1865.

R E P O R T
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FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR, 1864-5.



W O R C E S T E R :
A D A M S & B R O W N , P R I N T E R S , 2 1 2 M A I N S T R E E T .
1 8 6 5 .

SCHOOL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1864-5.

Summer Term.														Winter Term.													
DISTRICTS.	TEACHERS.	Residence.	Proportion of School Money.	Wages per month	Length of School, in days.	Gain or Loss.	No. of Scholars.	Gain or Loss.	Av. Attendance, per cent.	Gain or Loss.	Av. No. of Tardy Scholar.	No. of Scholars under five.	No. of Scholars over 15.														
{ East Centre, West Center, South West, South, East Hill, North, Coldbrook, West,	Helen E. Dean, Louise P. Allen, No School.	Rutland, Oakham,	\$118 00 90 99 71 34	\$20 00 16 00	50 55	0 -5	37 31	5 4	.95 .63	0 .04	0 73 0 64	3 3	1 1														
	Fanny C. Dean, No School.	N. Braintree,	86 95	14 00	54	4	20	-1	.98	.03	0 00	0	0														
	Katie A. Peckham, No School.	Prescott,	73 59 74 00 74 75	16 00	50	0	29	9	.86	0	0 24	3	1														
	Eunice H. Ayres,	Oakham,	110 35	12 00	51	11	18	4	.97	.11	0 40	0	0														
	{ East Center, West Center South West, South, East Hill, North, Coldbrook, West,	Helen E. Dean, Horace W. Lincoln, Leonard P. Lovell, Mary P. Bullard, Mary F. Rose, Mary A. Lovell, Ruthella Pond, Susan M. Keep.	Rutland, Oakham, Oakham, Spencer, Oakham, Oakham, Milford, Paxton.	25 00 30 00 22 00 16 00 24 00 20 00 24 00 28 00	50 40 59 60 40 40 30 50	0 -19 7 -5 -20 -10 -35 -10	49 34 15 32 11 24 37 25	11 5 0 5 -2 4 0 -5	.92 .83 .89 .84 .82 .87 76 .88	0 -02 .09 -09 -01 .01 -05 06	0 59 1.14 1.13 1.70 0.63 0.20 0.84 4.10	0 1 1 0 0 0 1 0	11 8 3 3 4 2 5 7														

SCHOOL REPORT.

The School Committee of Oakham respectfully submit to their fellow citizens the following

ANNUAL REPORT.

In reviewing the schools of this town for the past year, your committee find but little of marked or peculiar interest. The majority of the schools have been decidedly successful,—none have been failures. But several have not accomplished what they otherwise would have done, on account of the shortness of the terms.

The *East Center* school, which has wisely retained the same teacher through the year, has been unusually successful, and especially has there been notable and praiseworthy improvement in Reading.

The *West Center*, under the care of experienced and faithful teachers, has enjoyed a high degree of prosperity throughout the year.

The *Southwest* has been more than ordinarily prosperous and profitable. Thoroughness in everything has been its special and prominent characteristic.

Both the summer and winter terms of the *South School* were under the care of young inexperienced teachers,—a circumstance unfortunate for the district. But the teachers labored faithfully for the good of the school, and succeeded in gaining the love of their scholars and in manifesting fair improvement in their studies.

~~There was but one term in the *East Hill district*, and that a short one.~~ The examination was conducted mostly by the teacher and showed that fair progress had been made.

In the North school there was a manifest improvement in the matter of whispering and audible study. Both summer and winter schools were profitable, under teachers favorably known in this community, and scholars and teachers sustained their previous high reputation.

The summer term of the *West* school was the first effort of a young teacher, but one well fitted both in literary qualifications, and in power of government. The school was creditable to teachers and scholars.

The winter term was taught by a normal school graduate, and the recitations were interspersed with the usual normal school exercises. The singing was excellent, and the school generally was both pleasant and profitable.

The Coldbrook school was distinguished for better order than for some years past, and for rapid improvement in their studies by those scholars who were willing to obey and remain in school. The term was too short, however, to do justice to either teacher or scholars.

In this district there was no summer school simply because there was no money (except a debt of \$7.00) and your committee did not feel authorized to spend for the district what the district did not possess.

In the winter after some consultation with members of the district, it was decided to save the usual one third of the appropriation for the summer school. So that matters stood thus :

Appropriation \$78.64. Deduct \$7.00 remaining unpaid for last winter's school, and \$14.00 for two cords of wood sawed and put into the house, and we have \$57.64, for the year. Reserving \$21.64, less than 1-3, for the summer school, there remains \$36.00. On this plan, therefore, (paying the teacher \$6.00 a week,) it was possible to have but six weeks winter schooling. It was afterwards expressed to us as the general desire of the district to have the school continued four weeks longer, and use up all the money, and we endeavored to persuade the teacher to continue the school ; but she thought best to leave at the time first proposed.

So that Coldbrook has had but six weeks schooling for year, with the bright prospect of four more next summer.

We are sometimes asked why this school cannot be supported on the regular appropriation, as easily as those in other small districts. The reply is easy. This district has more than three times as many scholars as the East Hill, and for some unaccountable reason, but \$1.16 more money: \$3.41 more than the S. West and between two and three times as many scholars. But the same amount of money will not ordinarily go so far in so large a district as in smaller ones, because many teachers who might succeed well in them would fail in this: and we might almost as well have no school, as to engage any but tried, experienced teachers: but such teachers must be paid good wages.

We would respectfully recommend that an extra appropriation be made for this school, that past deficiencies may be in some measure made good by a long summer school. The town is liable to a fine of \$1400.00 for not doing so, if any man in the district chooses to make complaint.

It is said that when Hercules relieved Atlas "just for a moment," by taking the world on his own shoulders, the giant refused to take it back again. This district has played us the same trick. Our shoulders are weary of the burden. Will not the district organize and take it back again?

The schools this year have been unusually short from necessity. Everything pertaining to them, costs so much more than formerly, that the same amount of money will not go so far now as then.

Moreover six months schooling is little enough. That, with the fall High School, gives very fair advantages. But there ought not to be one day less. For all that is less is so much taken from the quality and value of our children's lives; and it is very poor economy to be that people,

"Where wealth increases, but where men decay," especially when that increase is less than one cent in ten dollars of property.

Still more, we are supposed to be a law abiding people, and by law we are required to furnish six months schooling to the whole town, and it does not seem consistent to be sending so many men and so much treasure south, to uphold the majesty of the law, and yet be ourselves breakers of the law.

There are two remedies for this state of things. One is to raise more money for our schools, which seems an imperative duty for the good of the town.

The other is to redistrict the town in such a manner that we may divide the money among not more than six districts instead of eight as at present.

We hope that at least this much may be done, that the South West district be divided between the South and West Center districts, and that the two Center districts be united into one, and have a graded school. There is no one change in our schools which would be of so great advantage as this union and grading. For no teacher can do justice to such large schools, as they are now constituted, with such a multiplicity of classes: and penmanship and music and such like exercises, are almost excluded.

The ill condition of several of our school-houses, is another argument for some change in the districts.

Both these remedies are so important, that we feel that they must on first thought recommend themselves to the intelligence of the town.

Monteith and McNally's geographies have been introduced into our schools during the winter in the place of Mitchell's.

The change seemed absolutely necessary. So many changes have taken place in the geography of the world or in our knowledge of it, and especially with regard to our own country, that the older books in use were materially untrue to present facts. There were scarcely any books in our schools from which the pupils could gain a correct knowledge of our own country, or even the number and names of the states and territories. From so long a continuance of the same book in the schools, there were almost as many editions as there were scholars, so that it was very difficult to classify scholars in that branch. Thence it came to pass that very little interest was taken in that most important study, and many were growing up with a meager and false knowledge of Geography. Therefore your committee decided to introduce a new book, and after a faithful examination, were agreed that Monteith's and McNally's were the best for our schools. Accordingly they were obtained and distributed according to the law of the state that when-

ever a new book is introduced, "each pupil then belonging to the public schools, and requiring the substituted book, shall be furnished with the same by the school committee at the expense of said town."

Your committee would respectfully request parents and guardians to sign each week the deportment cards sent home by the scholars.

We would call attention to the Annual Reports of the Mass. Board of Education, as giving much very important information concerning schools, and as a great help in the improvement of our own.

They are sent to the clerk of each district, to be kept as a part of the district library, where there is one,—or *together* in some place where they *may be accessible to all the members of the district*.

We would call the attention of our teachers to a few points.

It is our desire that more attention be given to *Penmanship*: and that the *whole time* of the teacher be given to the exercise during the daily writing hour, and that *every pupil*, who can make letters with pencil or pen, be required to participate in it.

We would be glad to see more attention given to Declamation and Composition in all our schools.

The Deportment cards are to be sent home every week by each scholar old and young, for examination and signing by the parents.

As far as we can ascertain, the laws give only to the committee power to permanently expel any scholar from school. But several times within a few years, teachers have expelled scholars, and not even given notice to the committee of their action.

We trust this will not be repeated. If there is occasion to suspend a pupil, do so, but immediately notify the committee, so that if possible the matter may be so settled as to sustain the teacher, and yet not needlessly deprive any scholar of his schooling.

NOT ABSENT NOR TARDY.

EAST CENTER.

Summer.

Abbie J. Dean,

Kate V. Rice,

Estella Dean,

Lizzie J. Bullard,

Genieve Woodis,

Abbie C. Jones,

Lizzie A. Morse,	Addie Dean,	George Adams,
George H. Lincoln,	Nathan R. Woodis,	Willie L. Reed.
Winter.		
Helen F. Dean,	Lizzie J. Packard,	Laura G. Burt,
Abbie F. Dean,	Estella J. Dean,	Lizzie J. Bullard,
Alice M. Tomlinson,	Allie M. Gleason,	Lizzie A. Morse,
Martin L. Crawford,	Oscar G. Hill,	Curtis E. Spooner,
Willie B. Gleason,	George Adams,	Henry Prouty,
N. Wendell Packard,	George H. Lincoln,	Nathan R. Woodis.

WEST CENTER.

Summer.

Emma J. Hill,	Ida H. Lovell,	Abbie M. Rawson,
Annie T. Rawson,	J. H. Orzina Lovell,	Clara L. Rawson,
Josie M. Ware,	Fidelia E. Woodis,	Henry M. Hill,
Geo. T. Lovell,	Walter M. Robinson.	

Winter.

Martha B. Allen,	Samuel R. Dean,	Lucen C. Fuller,
J. H. Orzina Lovell,	Bernard P. Lovell,	Ida H. Lovell,
James F. Robinson,	Josie M. Ware.	

SOUTH WEST.

Winter.

Jane E. Shedd,	Calvin D. Macomber.
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SOUTH.

Summer.

Emma T. Adams,	Martha L. Boyd,	Mary E. Dwelly,
Maria A. Flint,	Frances E. Hallowell,	Jessie Morgan,
Mary A. Sherman,	Adella M. Wilson,	Mary A. Pluff,
Ernest W. Colyer.		

Winter.

Jennie F. Adams,	Emma T. Adams,	Martha L. Boyd,
Jessie F. Morgan,	Otis H. Adams,	Alston V. Colyer,
E. Hurlbut Dwelly.		

EAST HILL DISTRICT.

Winter.

Hannah E. Drury,	Edward W. Fuller,	Charles F. Dean.
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NORTH DISTRICT.

Summer.

Flora A. Green,	Rosa J. Bullard,	Ella S. Fobes,
Minnie L. Brooks,	Mary M. Bullard,	Clarence H. Parker,
Evander L. Parker,	F. Rogene Parker,	D. Mildmay Parker,
Willie M. Simmonds,	Levi H. Adams,	Willie Brooks,
Henry Fobes,	Henry D. Bullard.	

Winter.

Mary A. Adams,	Carrie F. Barr,	Rosa J. Bullard,
Mary M. Bullard,	Ella S. Fobes,	Flora A. Green,
Alice Mathews,	Levi Adams,	Ella L. Green,
Willie Nye,	Henry Fobes,	John L. Dean.

COLDBROOK.

Winter.

Lois McCulloch,	Mary J. Butterfield,	Mary Houghton,
Ida Field,	Mary M. Allen,	Lizzie Coleman,
Electa L. Allen,	Andrew Walker,	Clarence Parker,
Orrin Perkins,	Frank P. Green,	Willie Coleman,
Byron Young,	Silas Allen,	

WEST.

Summer.

Louise Maynard,	Alice J. Maynard,	Willie H. Austin,
Francis Gaffney,	Willie Gaffney,	Chas. H. Trowbridge,
James H. Ware,		

Winter.

Willie Austin,	Chas. H. Trowbridge.
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F. N. PELOUBET,	} School Committee.
M. O. AYRES,	
H. W. LINCOLN,	

Oakham, Feb. 21, 1865.

